

Being an MK Has Advantages!

Are MK's (Missionary Kids) an underprivileged group? A lot of people are afraid to serve in foreign countries because of what it could mean to their children.

Carol Richardson, former missionary to Irian Jaya with RBMU International and member of the on-going Steering Committee of the International Conference on MK's, spoke recently to the staff of the U.S. Center for World Mission.

Many parents fear the dangers their children may have to face on the field. Carol responded to this fear: "The fact is, there are not so many *more* dangers on the field as there are different *kinds* of dangers.

"This was especially brought home to me when we came home from Irian Jaya with four healthy, happy kids. We had lived in the malarial swamps of south New Guinea and people would stand back, almost in amazement at the reasonably easy adjustment they had and how healthy they looked. Yet since we've come back, two six year olds have been killed out in the streets right here in our neighborhood. In one year, two children were killed

"If you're going to talk about dangers, you're in just as much danger living right here in the United States as you are in the jungles of New Guinea. And God has just as much power to protect in both places. The question should not be 'Is it safe?' But rather, 'Am I doing God's will?'"

Harry Conn, in *Four Trojan Horses* (pp. 17-18), makes reference to a study of the people listed in *Who's Who of America*. According to Conn, *Who's Who in Who's Who* showed that "it took 25,000 laboring families to produce one child that would be listed in *Who's Who*." That number dropped to 10,000 families of skilled craftsmen to produce one *Who's Who*. Among

Baptist ministers the ratio was 6,000 to 1; Presbyterian ministers, 5,000 to 1; lawyers, 5,000 to 1; dentists, 2,500 to 1. Episcopal priests had the best record: 1,200 to 1.

Oh. Except there was one more category. "For every seven Christian missionary families that sailed from the shores of the United States, . . . one of their children would be listed in *Who's Who*!"

Conn comments, "Surely this is a good example of Hebrews 6:10, 'For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love.' The person with a right motive of heart can depend upon the literal fulfillment of Mark 10:29 and Hebrews 6:10."

You want successful children? Perhaps the *best* you can do for them is take them to the mission field!

—J.A.H.

Chinese Government Says House Church Model Superior

The Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) was instituted by the Communist Chinese government in the '50s as a means of suppressing the evangelical church in China. Since it was a "church," and since it was government-sanctioned, all other churches could be suppressed as "anti-revolutionary," or "reactionary."

This background makes the following item of great interest to church-watchers in China. Rev. "George" Chan, an itinerant evangelist and a veteran of 18 years in prison for his evangelistic work in mainland China wrote the following in his personal prayer letter of August 1985. (I have edited the original to conform more closely to common English usage.)

"At the end of a study on the history of Chinese Christianity, government authorities recently concluded that house churches, or churches that met in Christians' homes, were the original church structure in China. All the churches that meet in huge and splendid buildings were established by foreign missions and belong to different (foreign) denominations. In other

words, Gothic and Roman architecture reflects the infiltration and influence of foreign missions and is a tool of propaganda on the part of foreign mission agencies.

"Having come to these conclusions, the authorities made the decision that the Chinese church should reflect the indigenous church; i.e., churches that meet in homes—house churches—should be established. At the same time, they concluded, no money should be spent to restore traditional church buildings.

"The conclusions of the study were communicated through official channels, but several units (most notably, the TSPM) refused to pass on the information. The TSPM is afraid that house churches will be regarded as legal and, consequently, the house church movement will become even harder to control than it has been in the past."

Chinese church growth researchers estimate the unofficial, house church movement includes from 30 to 100 million believers; the TSPM has approximately 3 million adherents.

—J.A.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

<https://archive.org/details/missionschildren1845unse>

Exit MARC Europe...Enter Christian Research Association

MAJOR CHANGES are taking place in the ministries carried out for 10 years by MARC Europe.

On February 28, 1993 MARC Europe ceases its operation, but a new registered charity, Christian Research Association, will simultaneously come into being to continue some of the services previously provided by MARC Europe. Not only will it have the same address as MARC Europe (at least for the time being) but also the leadership of Peter Brierley as executive director.

The aim of the Christian Research Association is to provide key research for the Christian community, a Christian information service, the continued production of the *UK Christian Handbook* and leadership training conferences.

Much of the management, consultancies and training will now be handled by independent service providers whose names will gladly be provided on request.

All MARC Europe's outstanding commitments, including conferences and seminars, will be met by the former staff members in-

involved. Checks payable to MARC Europe will still be honored.

These changes have become necessary as a result of the shortage of funds which is affecting so many in these tough times. MARC Europe remains very grateful to World Vision International for its willing support during the last 10 years.

Peter Brierley views the future with optimism. "We lay down the sword of MARC Europe unashamed and praising God for continuing opportunities to serve. Our desire is still that everyone may hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. We wish to give Christian leaders both the answers and the questions they need for strategic planning."

During the 10 years of MARC Europe's operation:

- Training was provided for 20,200 leaders who attended seminars.
- Research was undertaken for 94 Christian organizations and churches, as well as the mammoth

church censuses in Scotland in 1984 and England in 1989.

- Five editions of the *UK Christian Handbook* were published along with first editions of similar handbooks for nine other European countries.

- Publication of 67 further Christian titles with combined sales of more than 250,000 copies. ☉

➤ Contact: Christian Research Association, Vision Building, 4 Footscray Road, Eltham, London SE9 2TZ, Tel: 081-294-1989, FAX: 081-294-0014.

Response to environmental issues

CHRISTIANS SEEKING to exercise good creation stewardship will find solid guidance in several important areas in the April-June issue of *Transformation*. The issue presents a survey on the current danger to the environment, a biblical theology of creation in interaction with other perspectives, the results of an ongoing observation of the creation from both scientific and theological perspectives, an evangelical feminist response to the creation theology expressed at the WCC Conference in Canberra and advice on how the evangelical church can respond to the environmental angst of today's youth. A bibliographic essay provides an introduction to Christian literature on the environment.

On other concerns, MARC's Tom McAlpine presents one of his case studies on holistic ministry. La Parroquia de la Resurreccion in Mexico City provides an active witness among the poor through small groups which serve in cooperatives, legal and medical clinics, job training and celebration. ☉

➤ Available from **Transformation**, 6 Lancaster Avenue, Wynnewood, PA 19096 USA.

Suggested resources on the state of the world's children

Aidoo. *The Girl Child: An Investment in the Future*. UNICEF. 1991.

Allsebrook and Swift. *Broken Promises: The World of Endangered Children*. Headway, Hodder and Stoughton (UK). 1989.

Agnelli. *Street Children: A Growing Urban Tragedy*. Weidenfeld and Nicolson. 1990.

Ennew and Milne. *The Next Generation: Lives of Third World Children*. New Society Publishers (USA). 1990.

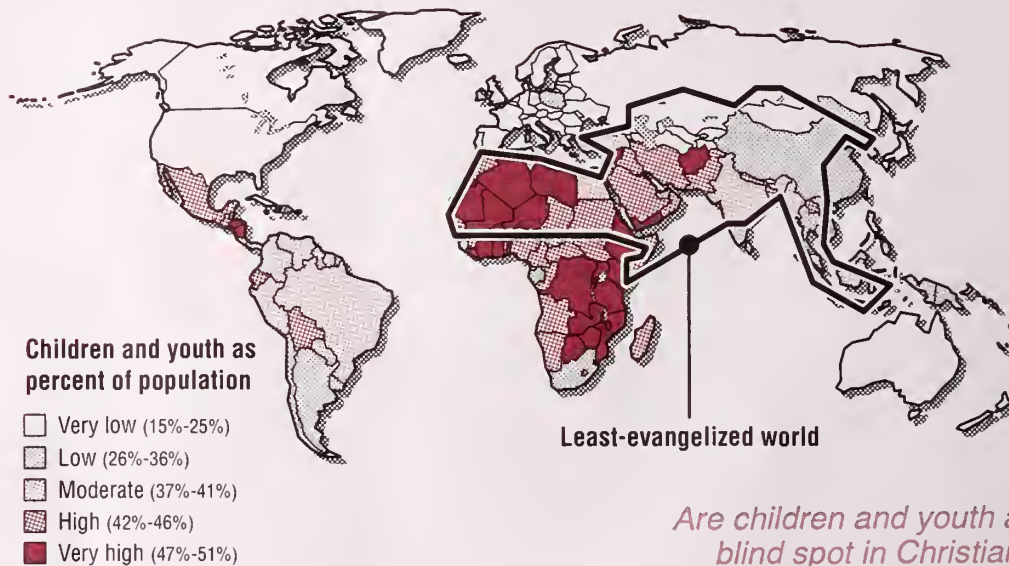
UNICEF. *State of the World's Children*. This annual publication is packed with statistics, stories and analyses of the many different perspectives of this problem. Available through any bookstore.

UNICEF. *Innocenti Studies*. A set of studies of different dimensions of the problem of the world's children written in popular form. Available from UNICEF Int'l Child Development Centre, Piazza S.S. Annunziata 12, 50122 Florence, Italy.

Vittachi. *Stolen Childhood*. Polity Press (UK). 1989.

SEVEN CHALLENGES TO MISSION IN THE 1990s

Children and youth



Are children and youth a blind spot in Christian mission today?

In God's world...

- ❖ One third of the world's population is under the age of 15, and 85% of these children and youth live in the Two-Thirds World.
- ❖ The great majority of people make life-shaping faith decisions before they reach the age of 20.
- ❖ MARC estimates that over 80% of the world's young people — 1.4 billion — are growing up in non-Christian settings or non-Christian homes.

Highest number of children under the age of 15

- China
- India
- Indonesia
- United States
- Nigeria
- Brazil
- Pakistan
- Bangladesh
- Russia
- Mexico

Source:
World Population Data Sheet, 1992

Mission Handbook preview: This sample page from the 1993-95 *Mission Handbook* is from a chapter by Bryant Myers of MARC, entitled, "The Changing Shape of World Mission."